

PLANT FLOW PROJECT SAVES TIME, IMPROVES DEALER
RELATIONSHIPS

ABOUT MINNKOTA WINDOWS. Minnkota Windows manufactures and distributes custom-sized vinyl windows and doors for residential use, as well as light commercial applications. Based in West Fargo, North Dakota, Minnkota Windows is among the best vinyl window companies in the upper Midwest. The family-owned business has roughly 40 employees.

THE CHALLENGE. Minnkota Windows needed help developing and managing a "parts" process to improve plant flow. "Parts" orders refer to orders that may include inventory items or individual components of a window, but do not have a bill of material associated with them. These orders do not run through the company's manufacturing system or generate typical paperwork. The company struggled to identify "parts" orders on the floor and keep the orders moving through the system. Shipping regularly missed these types of orders, creating conflict with the dealers.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Minnkota Windows worked with Impact Dakota, part of the MEP National Network, in the past and once again reached out for assistance. As a result of this existing relationship, Mark Volesky, Senior Business Manager at Impact Dakota was familiar with the people and operations of Minnkota Windows. Volesky set to work identifying key people and potential obstacles impacting the plant flow issue.

In a meeting with production associates, managers/supervisors, administrative employees, and the general manager, Volesky conducted a flow charting process that detailed the situation. The open, casual meeting generated a lot of thoughts and ideas. By the end of the process, the participants agreed on a solution and moved on to implementation planning and assigning tasks. Within two days, the company had a new process up and running that saved time for the production manager and shipping department and improved dealer relationships.

"We have worked with Mark Volesky, Senior Business Manager for Impact Dakota, on a couple different projects. In all instances I have found Mark and the Impact Dakota group to provide valuable direction and insight into the situations at hand. The experience and perspective that Mark brings to the table has proven out to be exceptionally beneficial."

-Brad Bushaw, General Manager

RESULTS



Designed and implemented new plant flow process in **2** days



Saved up to **45** minutes/day for both the production manager and shipping department



Reaffirmed commitment to dealers for significant long-term benefit

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